

AF
3600

Practitioner's Docket No. 57111-5072

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Mark Vincent Shoen

Application No.: 09/557,459

Group No.: 3611

Filed: April 24, 2000

Examiner: Yeagley, D.

For: FENDER HAVING OFFSET LIGHT HOUSING

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2004

GROUP 3600

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

1. Transmitted herewith is a response for this application in response to the Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.192(c) dated January 23, 2004.

STATUS

2. Applicant is other than a small entity.

EXTENSION OF TERM

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply. Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10*

(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

☐ with sufficient postage as first class mail.

37 C.F.R. § 1.10*

☒ as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"
Mailing Label No. EV272829319US (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

☐ facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) _____

Signature

Date: January 29, 2004

Bobbie-Jean Corbin

(type or print name of person certifying)

* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

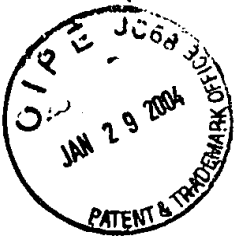
FEE DEFICIENCY

4. If an additional extension and/or fee is required, please charge Account No. 10-0440.

Date: January 28, 2004



Steven R. Hansen
Registration No. 39,214
JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER &
MARMARO LLP
1900 Avenue of the Stars
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067
310-203-8080
Customer No. 24574



22/Sypl Appeal Brief
J. Smith
2/19/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)	
)	
Mark Vincent SHOEN)	Art Unit: 3611
)	
Serial No.: 09/557,459)	Examiner: Yeagley, D.
)	
Filed: April 24, 2000)	
)	
For: FENDER HAVING)	
OFFSET LIGHT)	
HOUSING)	

RECEIVED
FEB 10 2004
GROUP 3600

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-
Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 and is addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 29, 2004, Express Mail Label No. EV272829319US,
by Bobbie Jean Corbin
Bobbie Jean Corbin

RESPONSE TO NOTIFICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH
37 C.F.R. 1.192(c)

Dear Sir/Madam:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.192(c), mailed on January 23, 2004, Applicant hereby re-submits triplicate copies of the Appeal Brief filed on October 30, 2003 for the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MARMARO LLP

Dated: 1/29/2004

By: 

Steven R. Hansen, Esq.

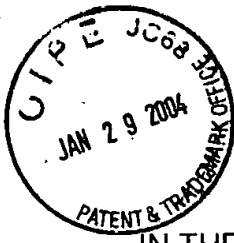
Reg. No. 39,214

1900 Avenue of the Stars

Seventh Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90067-4308

(310) 203-8080



PATENT
57111-5072

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:
Mark Vincent SHOEN

Serial No. 09/557,459

Filed: April 24, 2000

For: FENDER HAVING OFFSET LIGHT
HOUSING

Group Art Unit: 3611
Examiner: Yeagley, D.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail Receipt No. EV272828579US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on 10/30/03 by Cynthia Ross

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

RECEIVED
FEB 10 2004
GROUP 3600

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is being filed in triplicate together with a check in the amount of \$330.00 to cover the appeal fee and a second check in the amount of \$110.00 to cover a 1 month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). If this fee is deemed to be insufficient, authorization is hereby given to charge any deficiency (or credit any balance) to the undersigned deposit account 10-0440.

This is an appeal from the decision dated February 3, 2003 finally rejecting claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 17, 29-31 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitton, U.S. Patent No. 1,440,516 ("Whitton") in view of Caponi, U.S. Patent No. 2,001,705 ("Caponi"); finally rejecting claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poveromo, U.S. Patent No. 4,442,644 ("Poveromo '644") in view of Poveromo, U.S.

Patent No. 4,395,749 ("Poveromo '749"); finally rejecting claims 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whitton as modified by Caponi in view of Hardwick, U.S. Patent No. 4,027,808 ("Hardwick"); and finally rejecting claims 34-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Whitton.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is U-Haul International, Inc., the assignee of the subject application.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

This application is a continuation-in-part of application no. 09/193,010, which has been allowed but has not yet issued.

6,678,981

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 25 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23-24 and 27-39 are pending in the application, have been finally rejected, and are the subject of this appeal.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23-24 and 27-39 have not been amended after the final rejection of February 3, 2003.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A trailer or tow dolly typically includes one or more pairs of wheels and a plurality of fenders that at least partially enclose the wheels of the trailer. The fenders typically have a substantially convex or square cornered shape. A light

housing mounted on the fender or the top inner corner of a conventional fender comes into closest proximity with the cargo--for example, an automobile--being transported by the trailer or tow dolly. To avoid damage to the cargo, fender, or light housing, the tow dolly or trailer width must provide sufficient clearance between the fender and the cargo. Because of the expense involved in using wider, heavier trailers or tow dollies to provide the required clearance, a need exists for a fender that increases the width of the load able to be carried thereon without increasing the overall width of the trailer or tow dolly. A need also exists for a tow dolly and trailer that includes such fenders (page 1, lines 11-21; and page 2 lines 22-26).

The present invention fulfills these needs. Without limiting the scope of the claimed inventions in any way, the independent claims on appeal are summarized as follows: Independent claims 1, 38 and 39 are directed to a fender comprising a top portion with a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from an inner edge of the top portion. The claimed fender further comprises a light housing mounted to a curved surface of the top portion and offset from the fender's longitudinal mid-line. The clearance increasing portion depends downwardly from the inner surface of the top portion at a first non-zero acute angle. An inner wall depends downwardly from the clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero angle.

Independent claims 17, 34 and 35 are directed to a fender comprising a top portion with a concave clearance increasing portion depending therefrom.

Independent claim 28 is directed to a fender having a longitudinal mid-line and a light housing offset therefrom. The fender includes a downwardly, radially curved top portion and a clearance increasing portion depending downward from the inner edge of the top portion a first non-zero acute angle. An inner wall depends downwardly from the clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle. An outer wall depends downwardly from the outer edge of the top portion, such that the bottom edges of the outer wall, inner wall and clearance increasing portion all lie in a common plane.

Independent claim 36 is directed to a fender comprising a top portion having a continuously curved upper surface from which a clearance increasing portion depends downwardly at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane. An inner wall depends downwardly from the clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, such that the first and second planes are non-coplanar and the top portion and inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly.

ISSUES

1. Is the subject matter of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 17, 29-31 and 39 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Whitton in view of Caponi?
2. Is the subject matter of claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27-39 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Poveromo '644 in view of Poveromo '749?
3. Is the subject matter of claims 32 and 33 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Whitton as modified by Caponi in view of Hardwick?
4. Does Whitton disclose every limitation of claims 34-38, thereby anticipating them under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)?

GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

The grouping of claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 2-3, 6-7, 9-13, and 15-16, 19, 23 and 27 (fender with light housing attached to top surface of fender and offset from fender midline away from a clearance increasing portion);

Claims 20 and 24 (tow dolly having a fender with offset light housing);

Claims 17 and 29-31 (concave clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from inner edge of top portion of fender at first non-zero acute angle and

inner wall depending downwardly from clearance increasing portion at second non-zero acute angle);

Claim 28 (fender with offset light housing having top portion, inner wall and clearance increasing portion with co-planar bottom edges);

Claim 32 (top portion of fender comprises a substantially flat middle section and two curved end sections);

Claim 33 (top portion of fender comprises a plurality of planar sections);

Claims 34-35 (fender with concave clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from inner edge of top portion of fender);

Claims 36-38 (fender with clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from inner edge of top portion of fender at first non-zero acute angle and inner wall depending downwardly from clearance increasing portion at second non-zero acute angle); and

Claim 39 (fender with light housing offset from fender mid-line, clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from inner edge of top portion of fender at first non-zero acute angle, and inner wall depending downwardly from clearance increasing portion at second non-zero acute angle).

The claims do not stand or fall together. Each of the foregoing groupings will be argued separately below.

ARGUMENT

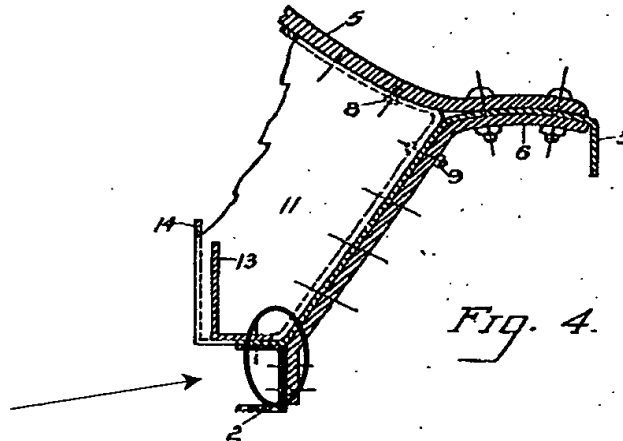
1. Whitton Does Not Anticipate Claims 34-38 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner asserts that claims 34-38 are anticipated by Whitton under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). "For a prior art reference to anticipate in terms of 35 U.S.C. § 102, every element must be identically shown in a single reference." In re

Bond, 910 F.2d 831 (Fed. Cir. 1990). However, Whitton fails to disclose every element of claims 34-38 and is not anticipatory.

First, Whitton fails to disclose a fender comprising an inner wall depending downwardly at a second non-zero acute angle from a clearance increasing portion, as required by claims 36, 37, and 38. The Examiner asserts that Whitton discloses this feature by characterizing elements 3 and 6 as the claimed fender. However, Whitton identifies numeral 3 as "the front fenders" and numeral 6 as "their supports." Whitton at 2:70-80 and 85 and Fig. 4. As Figure 4 indicates, the support and fender are distinct components which actually are oriented perpendicularly to one another adjacent the vehicle's axle 2.

Whitton Fig. 4
Fender 3 slopes straight down to the left, running parallel and away from top portion.



Referring to Fig. 4 from Whitton, the Examiner contends that the straight leg depending from the left-hand side of the top portion of Whitton's fender is a clearance increasing portion. Even were that characterization correct,

the disclosed fender still lacks an inner wall depending downwardly from the clearance increasing portion, let alone one that depends downward at a non-zero acute angle. The only portion of Whitton's fender which could conceivably correspond to the claimed inner wall runs parallel to and away from the top portion of the fender, as seen above.

Second, claims 34 and 35 both include the limitation "wherein said clearance increasing portion is concave." Again referring to Whitton Figure 4, the only portion of the disclosed fender which could correspond to the claimed clearance increasing portion is a indisputably straight. Thus, Whitton fails to disclose a concave clearance increasing portion, and therefore, does not anticipate claims 34-35.

2. The Subject Matter of Claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 17, 29-31 and 39 Is Not Obvious Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Whitton In View of Caponi

The Examiner asserts that claims 1-3, 6-7, 9, 17, 29-31 and 39 are obvious over Whitton in view of Caponi.¹ Claims 1 and 39 require a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from the top portion of a fender at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane, as well as an inner wall depending downwardly from the clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute

^{1/} Claims 1, 17 and 39 are independent claims. Claims 2-3, 6-7 and 9 depend from Claim 1. Claims 29-31 depend from Claim 17.

angle in a second plane. Caponi contains no disclosure of a clearance increasing portion and and/or inner wall geometry. Nor has the Examiner asserted that it does. Moreover, as explained above, the only portion of Whitton which could conceivably correspond to the claimed inner wall runs parallel to and away from the top portion of the fender. Thus, Whitton also fails to disclose the claimed clearance increasing portion and inner wall geometry.

Claim 1 further requires "a fender having a longitudinal midline, and a light housing mounted to said fender offset from said midline" such that the "housing is offset from the midline in a direction away from the clearance increasing portion." Neither Whitton nor Caponi alone or in combination teach or suggest a light housing that is mounted to a fender and offset from the fender's longitudinal midline away from a clearance increasing portion. The Examiner contends that Whitton's support bar 5 and front plate 10 comprise a light housing. Even assuming that were true, Whitton fails to disclose a light housing mounted to a fender and offset from the fender's midline in a direction away from a clearance increasing portion. Similarly, Caponi contains no disclosure of a light housing offset from a fender midline away from a clearance increasing portion.

The combined references fail to teach or suggest each limitation of claim 1 and do not render the claim obvious. See Litton Systems, Inc. v. Honeywell, Inc., 87 F.3d 1559, 1569 (Fed. Cir. 1996) (rejecting defendants' obviousness challenge on the grounds that "[t]he prior art simply does not contain

many limitations in the claimed method"). Claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable as well. In addition to the foregoing reasons, Claim 17 is further patentable over Caponi in view of Whitton because it provides that "said clearance increasing portion is concave." As explained above, Whitton discloses a fender with a straight portion depending downward along a straight line. "Concave" is defined as "curved like the inner surface of a sphere."² The decline of the Whitton fender is not curved and cannot reasonably be considered concave. Caponi similarly fails to disclose a concave clearance increasing portion. Because the combined references fail to teach or suggest a concave clearance increasing portion, they cannot render Claim 17 obvious. Claims 29-31 depend from Claim 17 and are, therefore, patentable as well.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Examiner has provided no motivation or suggestion to combine the teachings of Whitton and Caponi. "When an obviousness determination is based on multiple prior art references, there must be a showing of some teaching, suggestion, or reason to combine the references." Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang, 202 F.3d 1340, 1348 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). See also In re Stencel, 828 F.2d 751, 755 (Fed. Cir. 1987) ("Nor is obviousness established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion that the combination be made").

²/ The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.

"Numerous decisions emphasize that such a combination of reference teachings is improper unless the prior art suggests such a combination."³ For example, in In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990), the Court held that the PTO erred in rejecting the claimed invention as an obvious combination of the teachings of two prior art references when the prior art provided no teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination. Id. at 834-35.

Here, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to "have modified the fender of Whitton and attached a light housing . . . such as shown by Caponi . . . simply as an alternate mounting location for a head lamp or as an additional turn signal light apparatus for added safety" Office Action, dated February 3, 2003 at 4. However, the Examiner fails to describe why the claimed invention would have been chosen "for added safety" or provide any explanation as to how the prior art purportedly identifies safety considerations that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Caponi and Whitton to obtain the present invention. "The absence of such a suggestion [to combine] is dispositive in an obviousness determination." Gambro Lundia AB v. Baxter Healthcare Corp., 110 F.3d 1573, 1579 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Moreover, neither reference discusses the fender design needs addressed by the present invention--i.e., the need to increase the width of a load to be carried by a trailer or tow dolly without increasing the trailer or tow dolly width--further indicating that there is no

³/ Chisum on Patents §5.04[1][e].

motivation or suggestion to combine them. "The mere fact that the prior art could be modified in the manner proposed by the Examiner would not have made the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification." Ex parte Dussaud, 7 USPQ2d 1818, 1820 (Bd. App. & Int'l 1988).

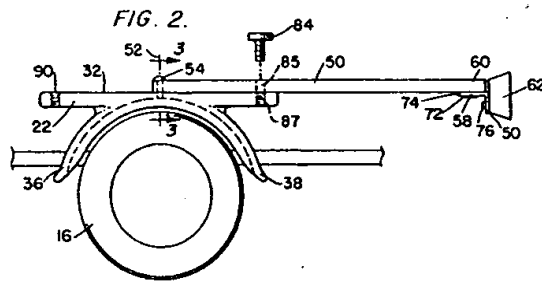
3. The Subject Matter of Claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27-39 Is Not Obvious Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Poveromo '664 In View of Poveromo '749

The Examiner contends that claims 1-3, 6, 9-13, 15-17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27-39 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Poveromo '664 in view of Poveromo '749.⁴ Poveromo '644 discloses a boat trailer with a fender 22 (shown in Figure 4) having a base 32 integrally constructed on top of a semi-circular portion 34. The Poveromo device needs base 32 to support bar 50, which ultimately supports a lamp 62 thereon.

Claim 1 recites a "light housing attached to the curved surface of the top portion" of the fender. The combined teachings of Poveromo '644 and Poveromo '749 do not teach or suggest this limitation.

Poveromo '644 does not disclose a lamp housing attached to the curved surface of the top portion of a fender. Instead, as shown in Figure 2 from Poveromo '644 (below), the lamp 62 is attached to the end of a bar 50 which is attached to a base portion 32, not the semi-circular curved surface of the fender.

^{4/} Claims 2-3, 6, 9-13, 15-16, 19-20, 23-24 and 27 depend --directly or indirectly--from independent Claim 1. Claims 29-33 depend from independent Claim 17.



Poveromo '644 Fig. 2
Lamp 62 is attached to bar 50, not to
curved surface of fender 20
(numeral not shown in figure).

Similarly, in Figure 4 of Poveromo '749, the lamp 78 is attached to a hollow bar 90 which is attached to a straight solid bar 82 that is fastened to the fender. Again, there is no teaching or suggestion to attach a light housing to the curved surface of the top portion of a fender. As a result, the combination of the Poveromo references fail to teach all of the recited elements and does not render Claim 1 obvious. See Litton Systems, Inc. v. Honeywell, Inc., 87 F.3d 1559, 1569 (Fed. Cir. 1996). Claims 2-3, 6, 9-13, 15-16, 19-20, 23-24 and 27 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable on that basis as well.

In addition to the foregoing, Claims 20 and 24 recite the use of the fender of claim 1 in a tow dolly. None of the cited references teach or suggest the use of the claimed fender in a tow dolly or contain any disclosure concerning tow dollies. Thus, Claims 20 and 24 are allowable on this additional basis as well.

As explained previously, claim 17 recites the use of a concave clearance increasing portion. Neither Poveromo reference discloses the use of such a clearance increasing portion, and the Examiner has not contended that

either reference does. Thus, Claim 17 is patentably distinguishable from the Poveromo references, as are claims 29-33 which depend from Claim 17.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Examiner has provided no motivation or suggestion to combine the two Poveromo references. He has characterized the combination of the references "as a matter of design choice dependent only upon users preference and the vehicles intended use," without providing any suggestion to combine. In the absence of such a suggestion, such a combination is improper. See Ex parte Dussaud, 7 USPQ2d 1818, 1820 (Bd. App. & Int'l 1988); Winner International Royalty Corp. v. Wang, 202 F.3d 1340, 1348 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (citations omitted). See also In re Stencel, 828 F.2d 751, 755 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

4. The Subject Matter of Claims 32 and 33 Is Not Obvious Over Whitton As Modified By Caponi In View of Hardwick

The Examiner asserts that claims 32 and 33 are obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Whitton as modified by Caponi in view of Hardwick. The Caponi and Whitton references are described above. Figure 2 from Hardwick is shown below. Hardwick discloses a receptacle transporting vehicle having walking beams 11 and 12 to which fenders 15 and 16 are mounted.

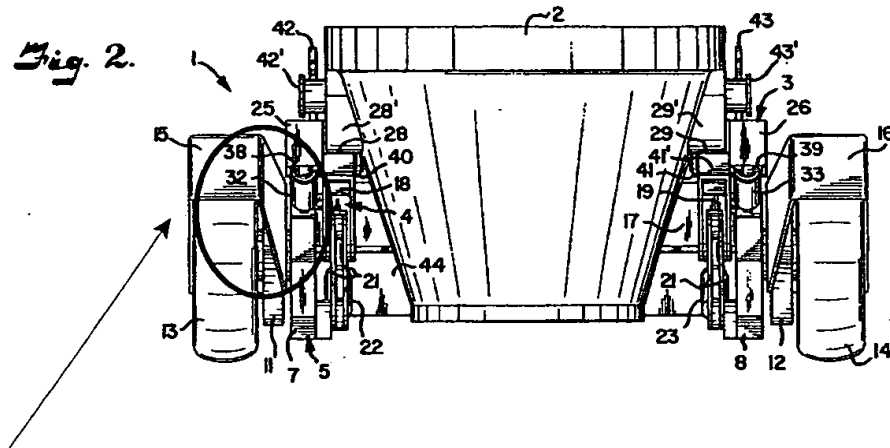
Claims 32 and 33 depend from Claim 17. Even in combination, the asserted references fail to teach all of the elements of Claim 17. First, none of the

asserted references discloses an inner wall depending downwardly at a non-zero acute angle from a clearance increasing portion, as required by claims 32 and 33.

Nor do any of the asserted references disclose a concave clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from the inner edge of the top portion of a fender.

As explained above, the only portion of Whitton which could conceivably correspond to the claimed inner wall runs parallel to and away from the top portion of the fender. Caponi contains no disclosure of the claimed clearance increasing portion or inner wall depending downwardly therefrom. As explained above, neither Caponi nor Whitton disclose a concave clearance increasing portion, as is required by claim 17 (and therefore, claims 32 and 33).

Figure 2 from Hardwick is reproduced below. As illustrated, Hardwick discloses a fender 15 that includes a sloped portion running downward from the fender's top surface.



Hardwick Fig. 2
Fender 15 (circled) slopes straight down and to the right, but has no inner wall depending downwardly from a clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle

However, even assuming that the sloped portion could constitute a clearance increasing portion, there is no disclosure of an inner wall depending downwardly from a clearance increasing portion at a second, non-zero acute angle. Moreover, the sloped portion of Hardwick's fender is indisputably straight. Therefore, as with Whitton and Caponi, Hardwick fails to disclose the claimed concave clearance increasing portion. Thus, even in combination, the asserted

references fail to disclose all of the elements of claims 32 and 33, and cannot render them obvious.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Examiner has provided no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to combine the three asserted references, contending that it is merely a matter of "design choice." In the absence of such a suggestion, such a combination is improper.

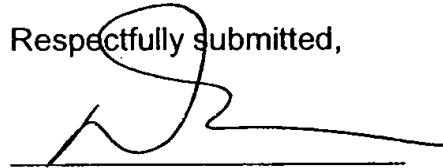
CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23-24 and 27-39 be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

10/30/03

Date

Respectfully submitted,



ROD S. BERMAN
Reg. No. 31,483

JEFFER, MANGELS, BUTLER & MARMARO LLP
Seventh Floor
1900 Avenue of the Stars
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Tel: (310) 203-8080

APPENDIX

1. (Thrice Amended) A fender having a longitudinal midline, and a light housing mounted to said fender offset from said midline, said fender further comprising:

a) a top portion having a curved surface and opposed inner and outer edges, and wherein the light housing is attached to the curved surface of the top portion;

b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane, wherein the light housing is offset from the midline in a direction away from the clearance increasing portion, and

c) an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein the first and second plane are non-coplanar.

2. (Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said light housing comprises a base portion that conforms to at least a portion of said curved surface of said fender.

3. The fender of claim 2 wherein said light housing further

comprises a raised portion adapted to receive a light fixture.

6. (Twice Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said first and second non-zero acute angles are each between about 1° and about 89° .

7. (Twice Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said first and second non-zero acute angles are each between about 40° and about 50° .

9. (Amended) The fender of claim 1 further comprising an outer wall extending downwardly from said outer edge of said top portion.

10. (Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said top portion further comprises a substantially flat middle section and two curved end sections.

11. (Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said top portion comprises a plurality of planar sections.

12. (Twice Amended) The fender of claim 11 wherein said first and second non-zero acute angles are each between about 1° and about 89° .

13. (Twice Amended) The fender of claim 11 wherein said first and second non-zero acute angles are each between about 40° and about 50°.

15. (Amended) The fender of claim 12 further comprising an outer wall, wherein said outer wall extends from said top portion.

16. The fender of claim 15 wherein said top portion is curved in a longitudinal direction.

17. (Amended) A fender having a longitudinal midline, and a light housing mounted to said fender offset from said midline, said fender further comprising

a) a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges, wherein said light housing is attached to said top portion,

b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle, wherein said clearance increasing portion is concave, and

c) an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein said angle formed by said top portion and said clearance increasing portion, and the angle

formed by said clearance increasing portion and said inner wall add up to approximately 90°.

19. A trailer comprising the fender of claim 1.

20. A tow dolly comprising the fender of claim 1.

23. A trailer comprising a plurality of fenders of claim 1.

24. A tow dolly comprising a plurality of fenders of claim 1.

27. (Amended) The fender of claim 1 wherein said clearance increasing portion, said inner wall and said top portion each have a bottom edge, and wherein said entire bottom edge of said clearance increasing portion, said entire bottom edge of said inner wall and said entire bottom edge of said top portion all lie in a common plane.

28. (Thrice Amended) A fender having a longitudinal midline, said fender comprising:

a) a light housing mounted to said fender offset from said midline,

b) a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges and a bottom edge, wherein said top portion is curved radially downwardly in a longitudinal direction,

c) a clearance increasing portion having a bottom edge, said clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a non-zero acute angle in a first plane,

d) an inner wall having a bottom edge, said inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, wherein the first and second planes are non-coplanar and wherein said angle formed by said top portion and said clearance increasing portion, and the angle formed by said clearance increasing portion and said inner wall add up to approximately 90° , and

e) an outer wall having a bottom edge, said outer wall depending downwardly from said outer edge of said top portion,

wherein said entire bottom edge of said clearance increasing portion, said entire bottom edge of said inner wall, said entire bottom edge of said top portion and said entire bottom edge of said outer wall all lie in a common plane.

29. The fender of claim 17 wherein said fender has an external surface having a shape, and wherein said light housing comprises a base portion that conforms to at least a portion of the shape of the external surface of fender.

30. The fender of claim 29 wherein the light housing further comprises a raised portion adapted to receive a light fixture.

31. The fender of claim 17 further comprising an outer wall extending downwardly from the outer edge of the top portion.

32. The fender of claim 17 wherein the top portion further comprises a substantially flat middle section and two curved end sections.

33. The fender of claim 17 wherein the top portion comprises a plurality of planar sections.

34. A fender comprising:

- a) a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges; and
- b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion, wherein said clearance increasing portion is concave.

35. A fender comprising:

- a) a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges; and
- b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle, wherein said clearance increasing portion is concave.

36. A fender comprising:

- a) a top portion having a continuous curved upper surface and opposed inner and outer edges;
- b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane, and
- c) an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein the first and second plane are non-coplanar.

37. A fender having a uniform cross-section, the fender comprising:

- a) a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges;

b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane, and

c) an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein the first and second plane are non-coplanar.

38. A fender having a longitudinal midline and a uniform cross-section, the fender comprising:

a light housing mounted to the fender offset from the midline;

a top portion having opposed inner and outer edges;

a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane, and

an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein the first and second plane are non-coplanar.

39. A fender having a longitudinal midline for use in conjunction

with a wheel, and a light housing mounted to said fender offset from said midline, said fender further comprising:

- a) a top portion having a curved surface and opposed inner and outer edges, and wherein the light housing is attached to the curved surface of the top portion;
- b) a clearance increasing portion depending downwardly from said inner edge of said top portion at a first non-zero acute angle in a first plane,
- c) an inner wall depending downwardly from said clearance increasing portion at a second non-zero acute angle in a second plane, wherein said top portion and said inner wall are oriented substantially perpendicularly, and wherein the first and second plane are non-coplanar, and
- d) an outer wall depending downwardly from said top portion, wherein the outer wall covers at least a part of the wheel.